

Andrew Hickenlooper House
838 Dayton Street
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2200-I

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. OH-2200-I

ANDREW HICKENLOOPER HOUSE

Location: 838 Dayton Street, Cincinnati,
Hamilton County, Ohio

Within the Dayton Street Historic District, USGS
Covington Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 16.713800.4332700, 16.713780.4332230,
16.713250.4332410 and 16.713110.4332750

Present Owner: Robert and Beulah Astin

Present Occupant: Robert and Buelah Astin and rental tenants

Present Use: Private dwelling

Significance: This is a large, elegant house typical of more costly later nineteenth century houses built in Cincinnati. It is one of several such houses built about the same time in what is now designated the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area, and is important as part of the architectural context of its time and place.

PART I HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. The house stands on a parcel of land originally sold on October 13, 1794 to Jonathan Dayton of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for \$42,897.00 by John Cleves Symmes, who obtained the original patent for the Miami Purchase from the United States Congress. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, on October 1, 1818, as an executor of the estate of Symmes, and as then Governor of the Indiana Territory, re-negotiated the sale, inasmuch as the original deed was said to have been lost. Because of the riots and fire of 1884, the records contained in the Hamilton County Court House were either partially or totally destroyed, thus making the present records an incomplete source of information. It is known from the remaining records that Adolphus Smith sold the property to his daughter, Maria Hickenlooper, on April 13, 1871. There are no known records of a house existing on the land previous to that date. Between that date and the present there have been numerous owners, the most notable of them being General Andrew Hickenlooper.
2. Date of erection: The house appears to have been built sometime after April 13, 1871 and perhaps before 1875. The architectural character of the front would tend to support those dates.

3. Architect: Unknown.
 4. Alterations and additions: None of apparent significance.
- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with House:

Andrew Hickenlooper was born on August 10, 1837. He was the City Surveyor for Cincinnati from 1859 until the outbreak of the Civil War, at which time he entered the Union Army as Captain in command of "Hickenlooper's Battery." He was engaged in the battles of Shiloh and Vicksburg and participated in General Sherman's "March to the Sea." He was made brevet Brigadier-General on May 20, 1865. Upon his return to Cincinnati he became a United States Marshal for two terms. Beginning in 1873 he was appointed a Vice-President of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co., and remained affiliated with that company, including the years 1877-1902 as its President, almost until his death. On February 13, 1867 he married Maria Smith, a daughter of Adolphus Smith who had originally purchased the property on February 15, 1860. Hickenlooper died on May 12, 1904.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None known
2. Bibliography:

Purchase by Adolphus Smith: Deed Book 597, p. 315 and
Deed Book 358, p. 243

Purchase by Maria Hickenlooper: Deed Book 388, p. 28.

Greve, Charles T. Centennial History of Cincinnati,
Vol. I., Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1904.

Prepared by: Carl A. Saladino
Project Historian
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This house is one of the more elaborately ornamented examples of the numerous Italianate-facaded structures on Dayton Street.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This three bay, two-and-a-half story house measures approximately 26'-0" by 83'-0".

2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Common red brick with a gray limestone facade.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls.
5. Porches and stoops: Stone entrance steps. Covered porch on the east side.
6. Chimneys: There are five brick chimneys. The three major ones are in the east exterior wall.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Recessed front entrance doorway. The large exterior paired doors are each two-paneled, wooden. The large interior door has a single lower panel and a pair of frosted glass vertical upper panels with an etched animal motif. Limestone architrave has engaged pilasters with Ionic capitals.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung windows with limestone surrounds on the front. Front sash is one-over-one-light, and two-over-two and six-over-six-light elsewhere.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable on front block, flat on rear wing. Roofs are metal standing seam.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Painted sheet metal cornice with brackets.
 - c. Cupolas: There is a skylight over the front stair.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: A series of storage, washing and furnace rooms.
 - b. First floor: Side-hall plan with two front parlors, a dining room and kitchen.
 - c. Second floor: Side-hall plan with four bedrooms and a bath all of which are now a single apartment unit.
 - d. Top floor: Side-hall plan with lower ceilings and containing four bedrooms and a bath all of which now comprise a single apartment unit.

2. Stairways: The main stair is in the front hall. With a very gradual slope, it has a long run to the second-floor rear landing with four steps returning to the second-floor front hall. Turned balusters, first-floor octagonal newel post, and hand rail are walnut. There is a continuation of the stair to the upper floor, as well as a rear service stair, which goes from the basement to the third floor. A stairway to the basement is adjacent to the southwest corner of the dining room.
3. Flooring: Linoleum and carpet. Front Hall is 3" pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster walls. Most ceilings (which were originally painted plaster) are now suspended accoustical tile.
5. Doorways and doors: Large four-panel wooden doors with raised moldings and wooden frames.
6. Decorative features and cabinet work: There are three mantel pieces on each floor. On the first floor they are carved marble, on the second floor they are highly decorative wood, and on the third floor they are very simple wood. In the dining room are two built-in buffets. The one on the west wall has a mirror over it.
7. Notable hardware: Cast bronze door butts with relief ornament. Door knobs are round porcelain.
8. Lighting fixtures: None of note.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the north side of Dayton Street this house is located in the middle of the block once known as "Millionaires Row."
2. Outbuildings: Carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Prepared by: J. William Rudd
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These data are part of the documentation made during the 1974 Cincinnati Project undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Miami Purchase Association and City of Cincinnati. Records were made of a part of the Dayton Street Historic interest Area of the City of Cincinnati.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project supervisor was J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati. The project historian was Carl A. Saladino of the Ohio State University. The measured drawings for the project were prepared by architects Steven B. Kells (University of Cincinnati) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), and student assistant architects William Maxwell Miller (University of Pennsylvania) and Osbourne K. Simms III (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle). The photographs were taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher in July 1982.